

80-04613

23 May 1980

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview with Retired Staffer [ ]

1. At the request of Mr. Joseph Lynch of the Office of Special Investigations, Department of Justice, and as part of the investigation concerning the denaturalization proceedings against Tscherim Soobzokov, we arranged to have retired staffer [ ]

[ ], who was originally in contact with Soobzokov [ ]

[ ] in 1952, interviewed by Mr. Joseph Lynch. Present at the interview were [ ], Office of General Counsel; Mr. Joseph Lynch; the interviewee, and the undersigned.

2. The interview on 21 May 1980 from 1300 to 1415 hours in the OGC offices covered essentially the 1953 Embassy Operations Memorandum and the form V-30 uncovered both in our files and also presented to the DOJ by Soobzokov, which apparently reveals information which the DOJ is now saying Soobzokov attempted to withhold.

3. Lynch had interviewed the State Department consular officer who had handled the Soobzokov visa and his successor John Panos. It was from Panos apparently that Lynch learned [ ]'s name and CIA affiliation.

4. We discussed with [ ] prior to his interview with Lynch, the areas of operational sensitivity to which we would object if raised by Lynch including the identity of [ ] in 1952 who made the initial recruitment of Soobzokov. Neither this subject nor any other sensitive operational subjects to which we would have objected were raised by Lynch during the interview. The questions that [ ] was asked, touched mainly on [ ]'s awareness of Soobzokov's application for a visa and any assistance that [ ] might have provided either directly to Soobzokov [ ]

5. The questions also covered when [ ] saw Soobzokov last (a year to a year and a half ago), whether or not [ ] was familiar with the visa files or whether or not [ ] actually transmitted a copy of the V-30 for Agency records. [ ] answered "no" to these latter questions. It appeared to this writer that there was an unfortunate implication in some of Lynch's questions, that the reason that Soobzokov had the V-30 in 1980, which he was using to show the government that he had already revealed his Waffen SS membership, was that we had provided it to him in the

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3020  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

S E C R E T

DRV CL BY [ ]  
RVW ON 23 MAY 00  
DRVD FROM D9c.1

near past. Lynch repeatedly returned to the question whether or not Soobzokov was treated any differently by the Visa Section at our behest and whether or not we had knowledge of Soobzokov's allegedly guilty secrets and if so what did we do about it. Dayton's answer based on recollections of twenty-five years past was perforce limited. [ ] did not recall without having his recollection refreshed (which was not done) when Soobzokov served in the German Army or the Waffen SS but did point out that Soobzokov's German Army background was probably known to the Circassian community and to the local national Christian Arabs working at the embassy because of Soobzokov's position as a prominent leader of his community.

6. [ ] also suggested that Lynch could verify the authority of the V-30 by contacting a retired local national who was the head of the Visa Section for some thirty years. It was interesting to note that [ ]'s speculation was identical to my own in that the form V-30 was typical of a regularly generated official looking form which most embassies and other information collectors use to extract biographic information in an ordinary fashion from applicants or potential contacts. [ ] will submit a letter to the undersigned outlining his expenses and can now be reached at his home in [ ]

[ ] *was* [ ]

C/IMS/FPLG: [ ] :kaj (9255)

Distribution

Orig & 1 - C/IMS/FPLG  
 1 - OGC/[ ]  
 1 - NE/OPS  
 1 - C/IMS